

The Hong Kong Daily Press

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1888.

六月

號五月五英港香

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LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 30th April, 1888.

ELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

Through the Yangtze Gorges or Trade and Travel in Western China, by Archibald J. Little, Life in China, by W. E. Carle.

Colonial Office, 1888.

Foreign Office, 1888.

Hazell's Cyclopaedia, 1888.

Statesman's Year Book, 1888.

Government Year Book, 1888.

Silver Wedding Number of Illustrated News.

Maurice's Balance of Military Power in Europe.

Martin's Navigation and Nautical Astronomy.

The Rock Cyclopaedia, a complete compendium of encyclopedic knowledge.

Athletics and Football, Badminton Library.

James's Long White Mountain Journey in Manchuria.

Young Lady's Guide to the Work Table.

Sparks of Wit and Humour, 50 cents.

Emerson's Works—complete.

Encyclopaedia of Business and Social Forms.

Bell's Standard from New York.

Carroll's Text Book of Ocular Eye Anatomy.

East Lyon and The Chamberlain by Mrs. Henry Wood—Cheerful English Editions.

What to read at Entertainments, 50 cents.

Portfolio Volume, 1888.

Leicester's Pictures from Punch—complete.

Knight's Half Hours with the best Authors.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG.

DOMINION ORGAN & PIANO CO.

Manufacturers of Cabinet, Combination,

Chapel and Pedal

ORGANS.

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PIANOS;

Sole right to use Pleyel's Automatic Pedal

COVER for the whole Continent of EUROPE.

This device absolutely closes the Organ, rendering it proof against Mice, Insects, Dust, &c.

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MELBOURNE, " "

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DOMINION ORGAN & PIANO CO.,

BOWMANVILLE, ONTARIO,

CANADA.

Send for Catalogues. [141]

MODES DE PARIS.

MELLE, A. CHEVALLIER,

FRENCH MILLINER,

COLLEGE CHAMBERS, FIRST FLOOR.

EVERY KIND OF HAT MADE TO ORDER.

Large Choice of DRESSES and other GARMENTS of latest Parisian fashion for Ladies and Children.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1888. [576]

MITSUBUSSAN KAISHA,

SOLE AGENTS FOR THE MIKE COAL MINE.

BUNKER COALS can be supplied to any

steamer lying in the Harbour or coming

alongside the Kowloon Wharf on application to the Undersigned.

Y. FUKUHARA,

Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 20th January, 1888. [183]

WANTED—A SURGEON for the

BRITISH S. S. "ZAMBESI."

Apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & CO.,

Agents.

CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

Hongkong, 3rd May, 1888. [800]

PLEYEL WOLFF, & CO.,

PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURERS,

22 & 24, RUE ROCHECHOUART, PARIS.

(Founded in 1868.)

GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS on Sale

at all the principal Musical Instrument Dealers.

The following are supplied to Order:—

Strings and all metal parts in the Piano

especially galvanized to resist damp, and prevent

rust; and for countries where there is a difficulty

in obtaining tuning forks, Wurstplanks in Steel

are made fitted with ALIQUET'S PINS, giving the

greatest guarantee to standing in tune, and

tuned with a simple time-piece Key.

The Aliquet says:—"No one ever yet

began one of WILKIE COLLINS Novels to throw it aside. Mr. COLLINS possesses the art of

fixing the reader's attention throughout the whole of a narrative of intrigue in a higher degree

than any that a common English Novelist."

Hongkong, 2nd April, 1888. [185]

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.

M. BONIFACIO J. DAQUINO has

This Day been admitted a PARTNER in

the WONG-NEY-CHOW DANEY FARM,

Hongkong, 28th April, 1888. [184]

NOTICE.

I HAVE this Day admitted Mr. NISSIM BEUDEN, a Partner in the Business of

SHAW & GENERAL BROOK, which

will in future be conducted under the style of

Mr. SAMUEL & BEUDEN.

J. SAMUEL.—

Hongkong, 1st May, 1888. [844]

NOTICE.

THE CELEBRATED

JOHN JAMESON WHISKEY.

Realizes the Highest Price in the

IRISH WHISKEY MARKET.

Manufactured only by

JOHN JAMESON & SON,

BOT STREET DISTILLERY, DUBLIN,

WHO ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH ANY OTHER

DISTILLERY.

Can be obtained in bulk or bottles by all

Dealers (one, two, or three Stars)

from their

SOLE EXPORT BOTTLING AGENTS—

CHARLES DAY & CO., 17, WATER LANE,

LONDON.

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INTIMATIONS.

1888. NOW READY. 1888.
THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY.
FOURTH EDITION.
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
(TWENTIETH ANNUAL ISSUE).
COMPLETE, WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.,
ROYAL 8VO., PP. 1,200. . . . \$3.00.
SMALLER EDITION, BYL. 8VO., PP. 800. . . . \$3.00.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date and is again much increased in bulk.

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.

The best Remedy for Acidity of the Stomach.
DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.
For Heartburn and Headache.
For Gout and Indigestion.

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.
The best Mild Aperient for Delicate Constitutions, Ladies, Children, and Infants, and for regular use in Warm Climates. DINNEFORD & CO., Chemists, London, Druggists and Stoerkeurs throughout the World.
N.B.—Ask for DINNEFORD'S MAGNESIA.
Agents—A. S. Watson & Co., Hongkong.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR

ANNUAL SUPPLY OF

DAWN & GRASS SEED,

AND

SWEET CORN

FOR IMMEDIATE SOWING.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 2nd March 1887.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until otherwise notified.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

MARRIAGE.
On the 23rd April, at the Catholic Cathedral, by the Rev. Mr. Father Burghignoli, J. M. GUTTERIDGE, Secretary's Office, Canton, the second daughter of the late J. M. D'Almeida e Castro.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MAY 5TH, 1888.

As the question of the feasibility of navigating the waters of the Upper Yangtze seems nearing solution, it may be well to turn to Southern China and see what advantages, if any, would accrue to foreign trade from the opening of the only other river in China capable of steam-navigation to any considerable extent—the Canton or West River. Although these two rivers cannot be compared as regards size or trading capacity, yet the West River is an important highway for shipping. Canton will bring manufacturers, and is to a certain extent, the rival of the Yangtze for the trade of Eastern Yunnan. They are, however, on an entirely different footing. By the Agreement of Choofoo of 1876, Ichang, a town on the north bank of the Yangtze, a thousand miles from the sea, was made an open port, and permission was given to navigate as far as Chungking, four hundred miles above that point, whereas the question of the navigation by steamers of the West River above Canton has only recently been officially submitted to the Chinese Government.

The development of foreign trade with China depends (1) on the capacity of the people to buy, and (2) on the facilities which the consumers possess of making the purchases which they require. To any one who has travelled in the interior of the country the capacity is apparent; in the remote provinces foreign goods of various descriptions are in demand, while the returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs show how widely distributed and how great are the wants of the people. What, then, are the facilities for supplying these wants? The facilities, if such a term may be employed, consist in the permission to land foreign goods at some nineteen points in China, where they are at first mulcted in an import duty, and thereafter, if carried about, are subjected to a variety of taxes which in reality strangle trade. It will be said, however, that the Transit Pass system has given the *caravane* of foreign goods an improved means of communication. A trade cannot stand up to its own accord; there must first be somebody to trade.

The real danger to British enterprise in Southern China lies, as stated above, in the proximity of the new French possessions to the consuming centres of Kwangsi and Eastern Yunnan, which have hitherto drawn their foreign supplies from Canton and Peking, but which are now, in point of time at least, nearer to Haiphong than to Hongkong. To balance this it has been suggested that a port on the West River should be opened to foreign trade and two places, Wuchow and Nanning, both cities of the first rank in the province of Kwangsi, have been named for the purpose. Wuchow is by far the more important, because it is the point where the trade of its province converges, and, what is still greater, because it is the point where the trade of the *caravane* of the Canton and the other officers of Government, in the responsible districts which I have now undertaken. With the assistance which I confidently expect from the heads of the different Departments and the experience which I have gained during a long period of service under distinguished Statesmen and Chiefs in India and the Colonies, I trust that I may be able to administer the Government of the Canton and the other officers of Government, in the responsible districts which I have now undertaken.

Mr. C. V. Crookshank was installed as Governor of British North Borneo on the 16th February, under a salute of seventeen guns. After the reading of the commission His Excellency said:

"Mr. Crook and gentleman, I thank you very much for your attendance here to-day to witness my installation as Governor of this territory. I am sure that I shall always have the support of the Canton and the other officers of Government, in the responsible districts which I have now undertaken.

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A collision occurred outside Ningpo on the night of the 20th April between the *Iohong* and small junk. The junk, which had come from Tiger Island, and the *Iohong* had some of her gunnel knocked away. In consequence of the collision and fog, the *Iohong* did not arrive at Shanghai till 1 a.m. on the 23rd, but she was turned round again and left for Ningpo so that she should not lose a trip.

Passes by which she reached the steam dredge. *Audley*, a steamship working, and often sending the boats, being due to the fact that she could not work at low water, and that there have not been a sufficient number of boats provided to carry away the spoil—will be astonished, says the *N. C. Daily News*, to hear that she has already cleared out the mouth of the Creek to a depth of 14 feet, and with a width of 100 feet. It is intended to increase the width of the channel to 220 feet, but the effect of the channel that has already been cut has been to greatly increase the silt during the flow of the tide, and a good deal of mud has been cleared away by this good advice.

A sad death occurred at Shanghai on the 29th April. Mr. James Craig Kirkpatrick, a member of the Consular staff, who had been ill for some time, died on the 28th, and his wife, the perfect combination of the sick of a colic oil lamp. Deceased not getting up in the morning, his cabin was entered, when everything was found covered with a film of snot and the deceased's nostrils were found blocked up with snot, which had been inhaled like a powder.

Dr. Reid, who gave an account of the deceased, said he was on one occasion nearly choked by a lump in a similar way, and was only availed of by the sneezing and choking of a little in his ear which he kept in the cabin. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

The purchase, the other day, by Chinese of the property of Pudong, known as "The Tint," has caused an (Shanghai Consul) to make inquiries as to what it was intended to do with the property, and we learn on good authority that it is to be made into a wharf and godowns. A company has been formed under the name of "The Union Wharf Company," and the required capital has already been subscribed or promised.

The present building is to be converted into godowns, and made suitable for the storage of general merchandises, but principally, we believe, kerosene oil, and we are informed, trading privileges will be extended to these new godowns. It can be thus taken for granted that the enterprise is one almost solely promoted by Chinese, but we hear that a foreign firm will be appointed as sureties of the new company, and that the working of the wharves will be in their hands.

HANKOW.

The Hankow correspondent of the *Shen-pao* says that the number of native tea firms has been reduced to nearly one half this year, as compared with the last season. Samples of the Ningpo green tea have already arrived at Hankow, and both its colour and taste are excellent. The new season's tea will probably arrive at Hankow in about ten days.

TIENTSIN.

The *Mercure* says that the claim against the C. N. steamer *Wen-chou*, for colliding with a rice junk at Tientsin, is likely to be a heavy one, as the junk has gone to pieces and the whole cargo of rice is destroyed. The steamer *Wen-chou* was en route to Tientsin, when the accident took place at night inside the Black Buoy. A pilot was in charge of the time.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says the railroad is progressing well on the river towards Tientsin, and is expected to be completed in the course of two or three months. Building is active, several houses being in process of erection. Activity seems to characterize the place at present.

The *Times* and *Lighter Company*, at Taku are doing well with their two-horn *Sea Gull* by towing in grain junks. The *Lighter Company* are not getting ready the first of their lighters, the sailing vessel *Hak-ke*, which is being dismantled at Taku. It is said that the previous rate of seven cents per picul will be reduced to five cents, and probably less.

The *Chinese Times* says—An official proclamation has been issued in Peking, thanks again to Baron von Ketteler's spirited practical action, warning dealers in strawhats for export against continuing the malpractices that have brought the trade into discredit and have done so much injury to the foreign merchants, who have been writing to the Emperor, but, had probably been too much in the dark.

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JAPAN.

ROBE.

We hear that Mr. James Troun, His Majesty's Consul at Kobe, will succeed to the Consulate at Yokohama, rendered vacant by the recent death of Mr. Russell Robertson, C.M.G. The Consular staff, which includes the Imperial Finance Department, has given official notice that the Government has decided to dispose of the Mikado's chief bazaar between now and the 30th of July next, at a reserve value of 4,000,000 yen, payment of which will be allowed to extend over fifteen years.

YOKOHAMA.

The *Y. S. Times* hear that the Japanese Government are consulting over the provision of some regulations with regard to foreigners who are engaged in business under the names of natives, at many places outside the Foreign Settlements. The number of these is said to have wonderfully increased of late.

From Yokohama papers we learn that H. B. M. Chargé d'Affaires has appointed, temporarily, Mr. C. H. C. Bell, as Consul, H. M. Consular Court for Japan, and Mr. John Harrington Gubbins to act as H. M. Consul at Yokohama until the arrival from Shanghai of Mr. George Jamison, Acting Judge. During the absence from Tokyo of Mr. J. H. Gubbins, Mr. W. G. Aston will perform the duties of Acting Vice-Counsel at the capital, in addition to his present position as Japanese Secretary.

The *Y. S. Times* add that a most disastrous collision occurred on the 8th April at a town called Yochin, in Oiwa. Out of the 2,000 houses constituting the town, 1,300 were destroyed, and several persons lost their lives, amongst whom was the chief officer of the Post Office. Several houses and dogs and a number of fowls were also burned to death. The *Yokohama* and Police officials said to have been in the town at the time of the collision of the people rendered homeless, and subscription on their behalf were being raised in the neighbouring districts.

COCHIN CHINA.

SAIGON.

M. Constant, handed over the Government of French Indo-China on the 23rd April to M. Richard, who will not, according to the official announcement, during the absence of M. Constant.

For other mail news see *Supplement*.

WRITE FOR CIRCULAR.

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Hongkong, 9th May 1881. 118

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Hongkong, 27th March, 1876. 113

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Hongkong, 1st January, 1881. 120

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Hongkong, 1

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1888.

CHINESE PRISONS.

Some few of our readers, no doubt, have paid a usual visit for a few minutes to a Chinese prison either at Canton or Shanghai, and still more are familiar with the repulsive features of these establishments from reading the descriptions of them which have at different times been published. It would seem, from the account of a visit to a gaol at Peking, reprinted in yesterday's issue from our *Teutonic* contemporary, that the metropolitan prisons are no better than those in the provincial cities. The same 'utter despatch,' the same unspeakable filth, the same callousness to suffering on the part of the gaolers that obtain in the same institutions in other parts of the Empire are to be found at the seat of Government. The prisoners whose tragic end is described had apparently been done to death by starvation, exposure, and gross neglect. He does not appear to have been tortured or beaten; he was probably incarcerated for debt; but being without funds to pay for food or comforts of any kind, he was slowly starved by the fifty heating gaolers. A Chinese gaol is a place of horrors if for nothing but the distastefully insanitary conditions invariably prevailing in it, and which very quickly sap the health of those by their own crimes or by outrageous fortune find their way into these infernos. "All hope abandon ye who enter here" might indeed with truth be inscribed over the doorway of a Chinese prison—that is, of course, if the miserly entrant be friendless and moneyless.

Whatever progress in other respects has taken place in China lately very little attention has been given to prison reform. The following description by WILLIAMS still gives a very fair idea of Chinese gaols:

"The prisons are arranged somewhat on the plan of a large stable, having an open central court occupying nearly one-fourth of the area, and small cribs or stalls covered by a roof extending nearly around it, so contrived that each company of prisoners shall be separated from each other night and day, though more by night than by day. The prisoners cook for themselves in the court, and are secured by manacles and gaolers, and a chain joining the hands to the neck; one hand is liberated in the daytime in order to allow them to take care of themselves. Heinous criminals are more heavily ironed, and those in the prison attached to the judge's office are worse treated than the others. Each criminal should receive a daily ration of 2lbs. of rice, and about 2 cents to buy fuel, but the gaoler starves them on half this allowance unless they are able to feed them; clothing is also scantily provided, but those who have money can procure almost every convenience. Each crib full of criminals is under the control of a turnkey, who, with a few old offenders, spend much time torturing newly arrived persons to force money from them, by which many lose their lives, and all suffer far more than they do from the officers of Government. Well, if the people call their prisons hell, and say when a man falls into the clutches of the gaolers, 'the flesh is under the cleaver,' so little government or order is there in Chinese prisons that it is not an uncommon thing for the prisoners to take charge and defy the authorites. The rowdies and ruffians turn loose over the weaker prisoners who have been incarcerated for debt or for false charges, which are constantly tramped up by persons desirous of revenge or anxious to get rid of an enemy or rival."

The 'Institution of torture, and the want of humanity shown towards prisoners generally, especially to those who have not been convicted, are the worst features of the Chinese administration of justice, but the whole prison system is dreadfully at fault. It is even worse than that prevailing in England and in the Continental gaols before the noble hearted JOHN HOWARD commenced that crusade against prison abuses which has conferred imperishable fame upon his memory. A Chinese HOWARD is sadly needed. An entire reform in the structures, the system of confinement, and the mode of treatment of prisoners is called for. The Japanese Government have done very much in this direction. Formerly their system left much to be desired, both in the score of humanity and of health. They have now, however, reformed the system; improved the gaols, abolished torture—least of all is it allowed by law—and have introduced labour on useful works and a reformatory system to reclaim offenders. When will the Chinese Government follow this excellent example? We noted with no little satisfaction a statement in the Canton *Kwang-pao* in March last to the effect that the prisons of the Nam Hoi and Pun Yu Magistrates being overcrowded, they had established a new prison at the barracks near the North Gate for the accommodation of criminals sentenced to lengthened terms of imprisonment. A new departure in Chinese prison life is the establishment within this building of a workshop to enable the prisoners to learn a handiwork and obtain the means of earning their subsistence. This is a distinct step in advance. Hitherto the prisoners have had to endure semi-starvation or rely on the alms of the charitable, which, when offered, did not always reach the most deserving. We do not know who suggested this departure from French d'custom, whether it was one of the Magistrates or whether it came from a higher authority, but we hope that it will be permanent, and that it may prove the first move towards a scheme of prison reform through the Two Kwangs. His Excellency CHAN CHEH-ting would, by associating himself with such a movement, do more to earn the gratitude and esteem of the people of his provinces than all his erudition and talent for writing can ever achieve."

THE NEW AMERICAN-CHINESE TREATY.

The Government of the United States have succeeded in making a new treaty with China which should satisfy the most rabid of the anti-Chinese faction in the Pacific Slope. The convention signed at Washington on the 12th March last by Secretary BAYARD and the Chinese Minister CHOU YEN-noon provides for the future absolute exclusion of the Chinese labourer or coolie class from the territory of the American Republics. This prohibition is not to apply to the return of these Chinese labourers who have given hostages to fortune, who, in short, have married and brought up families in the States; but even such persons will only be allowed to return under conditions of a very restrictive character. To the stranger Chinaman, who wishes to go thither with no capital but his labour, the United States are in future barred absolutely as the interior of the Middle Kingdom is to the American settler. No longer will it be possible for the Six Chinese Companies at San Francisco to import them as Chinese labourers to California there to compete with Caucasian labour. The Chinese now living there will be suffered to remain, but no more will

be allowed to come in to fill the gaps which deaths or departures must make in the Celestial ranks. At length, to all appearances, the Californians are within measurable distance of the goal of their hopes—that the Golden State may be preserved as a heritage for the white man. But are our American friends quite certain that they have got the best of the wary Son of Han? It seems to us other that the Chinese Government care but little for Chinese interests in the Western Republic, or that they are fairly satisfied that the Treaty will not prove watertight. Article III. contains a clause which gives some colour to the suspicion that it may not prove so impervious as at first sight appears to be the case. This clause runs as follows:—"It is also agreed that Chinese labourers shall continue to enjoy the privilege of transiting across the territory of the United States of America in the course of their journey to or from other countries, subject to such regulations as the Government of the United States of America as may be necessary to prevent such privilege of transit from being abused." That is to say, Chinese coolies bound for Mexico, Cuba, Panama, or any of the Central or South American Republics can pass through the United States *en route*. Whether it will be possible for such emigrants to linger on their way for an indefinite period in the States or not depends mainly no doubt upon the manner in which the new Treaty is enforced. But it is quite conceivable that in some States it may be regarded as a dead letter; for the anti-Chinese feeling does not exist in all parts of the Union, and the Chinese may not be so unwellcome in some of the Southern States. Time will show, however, whether the Treaty will prove more effectual for the purpose for which it was negotiated than the Treaty of 1830 signed at Peking by the Special Commissioners, Messrs. ANGEL, SWART, and TESCHOTT.

One result of the ease with which the Washington Government have induced the Chinese Government to consent to the prohibition of Chinese immigration into the United States will inevitably be to strengthen the agitation for their exclusion from the Australian Colonies. The outcry against the admission of Chinese to Australia has spread to every colony, and when the colonists find that a Treaty to secure them their absolute exclusion from the United States has been signed at Washington they are likely to urge on the British Government the desirability of concluding a similar convention to limit the influx into Australian territory. The circumstances of the two countries are very similar; the competition of Chinese cheap labour has in each case aroused a furious opposition to their immigration on the part of the Caucasian working classes, and a clamour has been raised for legislation directed against the invaders. At the present moment the anti-Chinese agitation in the Australian Colonies is more vigorous and more imperative than it ever has been. One Australian journal has even gone the length of predicting that this question is almost certain to prove the weapon by which union with the mother country will be severed. England, it urges, has large commercial interests in China, for the preservation of which she is bound to do her utmost, and the conservation of these interests may involve the sacrifice of Australian wishes. No doubt the paper referred to quite forgot that Australia also has a valuable trade with China—which will grow with her growth, and will eventually become greater even than that of the British Isles. In the presence of a present evil future interests are always liable to be lost sight of, and our Australian kinsmen are much more concerned just now with the invasion of the Chinese labourer than with the gradual expansion of Chinese trade, and they would probably much prefer to be allowed to be held in secret. The publicity which at present prevails is a matter merely of custom and indulgence; the time has come when it should be established by law. The present Bill, however, since it gives the Magistrate all the powers and privileges now possessed by a Coroner, confers on him the right of holding secret inquiries. It is no less important that the rights of the legal profession in respect of death inquiries should be formulated. As a suspect person will no longer enjoy whatever advantages may be secured from cross-examination of witnesses in the Police Court, the interests of justice demand that opportunity of the fullest examination should be given to the inquest.

Lord ENNERFIELD, in his despatch to Sir WILLIAM DES VIEUX, points out that whereas it is now estimated that an addition to the tonnage dues of 1 cent per ton for two years, or 1 cent per ton for three years, will more than realize the whole of the \$90,000 required, in Mr. MANSFIELD'S despatch of the 25th of November, 1886, it was estimated that a tax of 1 cent per ton would only realize \$15,000 per annum, or \$45,000 in three years, and £50,000 in five years. It is proposed to double the rate, so that in three years the increase of revenue from this source would amount to at least \$90,000, unless there should be a large falling off in the tonnage entering the port, which is in the last degree improbable. In 1885, the year before that in which Sir WILLIAM MANSFIELD'S despatch was written, the light dues amounted only to \$26,000, the estimate having been \$29,000, and the sum of \$15,000 per annum is likely to be received from the proposed increase of one cent per ton for three years and a half for two years. As to whether the sum required should be raised by an increase of one cent per ton for three years or a cent and a half for two years, we should say the smaller increase for the longer term is decidedly the more equitable, and it would be more equitable still to make it half a cent, a ton for six years and to commence the collection only after the light has been established. If the collection is commenced forthwith the dues will have to be paid by a number of vessels which will have been removed from the trade before the light is completed, while new vessels put on afterwards will enjoy the benefit for nothing. We do not attach very great importance to this point, because although the ships may change the owners will for the most part be the same, but still there is enough in it to turn the balance in favour of dues extended over a longer term.

In moving the second reading of the Coroner's Abolition Ordinance the Attorney-General is reported to have said:—"The Coroner's inquest has not hitherto had the same significance in this colony that it has in England. Legal proceedings by way of prosecution cannot be founded upon it." It is not great mistake in this statement. The Coroner's inquest has hitherto, we believe, had exactly the same significance in this colony as in England, neither more nor less, and legal proceedings by way of prosecution could be founded on it. The English law on the subject was adopted in its entirety, and it is by that law, and not by any local ordinances, that the duties and powers of the Coroner are regulated. In England, as here, it is usual for a person accused of murder or manslaughter to be tried on a committee by a magistrate, but here, as in England, he could if necessary be tried just as well on the Coroner's committee. The point has actually been raised in the Supreme Court, and although it did not go to a formal decision, the dictum of the Judge possesses almost equal force. In fact, the question is one that does not admit of debate. That it is desirable the office of Coroner should be abolished in this colony all parties are agreed, but it is well that the step should be taken with eyes open to its full significance.

In reply to an inquiry by the Hon. A. P. MACLEWEN as to whether it was intended that when the inquest was made by the Magistrate without a jury it should take place in public, the Attorney-General said it would not necessarily do so, that under the existing law a preliminary inquiry before a Magistrate might be held in private, and that there were conceivable cases where it might be desirable for the detection and punishment of crime that the inquest should be private, but the conceivable evils that might result from such an enquiry commit any person for trial at the Supreme Court without regard thereto should be held in private.

The figures 7 and 8 in the above section are apparently a misprint for 6 and 7. A similar mistake occurs in section 8, which commences as follows:—"Whenever a Magistrate shall require an enquiry to be necessary, he may enter into the cause of death or such persons without a jury, and (in his discretion) with or without view of the body, and may determine the cause of death, and make such order with regard thereto as he shall consider necessary. Such enquiry may be held notwithstanding that the cause of death did not arise within the Colony." The only cases in which juries are to be summoned are those in which prisoners die in gaol or whenever any person shall suffer capital punishment. Section 12 provides that—"The Magistrate shall have, in relation to the enquiries provided for in sections 7 and 8, the same powers in all respects as he possessed or may possess in relation to any other proceedings taken before him, and may at the conclusion of any such enquiry commit any person for trial at the Supreme Court without further proceedings before himself or any other Magistrate." The figures 7 and 8 in the above section are apparently a misprint for 6 and 7. A similar mistake occurs in section 8, which commences as follows:—"Whenever a Magistrate shall require an enquiry to be necessary, he may enter into the cause of death or such persons without a jury under section 8." Evidently section 7 is intended.

Against the general policy of the Bill, no reasonable objection, we think, can be advanced. The present system, under which

it is necessary to call a jury in every inquiry held by a Coroner, subjects jurors to great loss of time and inconvenience without any proportionate public advantage. Sometimes, indeed, there is a positive disadvantage, as in cases where the Coroner's jury returns a verdict different from that arrived at by the jury before whom a person charged with murder or manslaughter may subsequently be tried at the Supreme Court. Such contradictions are calculated to throw doubt on the justice of the final verdict, although it must be admitted that the Supreme Court jury is in a much better position to arrive at a correct decision than the Coroner's jury. As the Magistrate under the new Ordinance, may commit any person for trial at the Supreme Court without further proceedings before himself or any other Magistrate, he will doubtless follow the same course as a Magistrate sitting on the Bench, and commit any person against whom there appears a *prima facie* case of murder, manslaughter, assault, or criminal negligence. There is not likely, therefore, to be any failure of justice. The new system will necessitate only two sets of trials; for at present there is the Coroner's inquiry, the proceedings before the Magistrate, and the final trial before the Supreme Court. We can see only one drawback to the abolition of Coroner's juries, and that is in cases where death has occurred under circumstances which do not involve any criminal charge, the jury are sometimes able to make recommendations for the removal of a danger which has been disclosed by the evidence, or for the amendment of regulations which may be held to have contributed to the accident or not sufficiently to have guarded against it. It is not at all an uncommon thing forjuries to append a rider to their verdict. While admitting that such riders, taken as a whole, have a distinct value, we do not consider this value to be so great as to justify the continuance of a cumbersome system which has little or no other merit to recommend it. There are, of course, obvious reasons why it is desirable to retain the jury system as regards inquiries into deaths occurring in the gaol, but as regards other deaths it has become unnecessary.

Two omissions strike us in the Bill, both of which are of some importance. The Coroner's Court is a private one, and not even lawyers engaged by the friends of the deceased or by suspected persons can claim to be present at the trial. The Coroner's despatch is very confidential—except that the anticipated delay has taken place and that no other witness has been called to give evidence. On the other hand, it must be admitted that foreigners cannot well claim to enjoy both extirritoriality and a right of unrestricted residence. At the same time, as liberal an interpretation ought to be given to the regulations governing residence as can be done without danger to good government or incurring the risk of popular disturbances. The Chinkins residents would seem, from the statements of our contemporaries, to have good cause of complaint. Each case, however, must be judged on its own merits. We note that at least one of the cases mentioned in the article in question refers to what appears to be temple land. With respect to property of this description too much caution should be exercised. Even assuming that the local title rests with the priests, their equitable rights over the property are not greater than those of trustees or life tenants, and the making over of such property to foreigners, and the erection of foreign buildings thereon, is calculated to raise possible feelings amongst the populace, who have been accustomed to look upon the temples and their surroundings as a certain extent of public property.

That having said, we are of the opinion that

afforded by the Bill now in Council to have established the principle of publicity in all judicial proceedings.

THE PROPOSED LIGHTHOUSE ON GAF ROCK.

The delay in connection with the proposed Gaf Rock lighthouse appears now to be due solely to the Chinese Government. In January last Sir WILLIAM DES VIEUX addressed the British Minister at Peking requesting him to lay before the Chinese Government certain alternative proposals. In his letter to the Secretary of State reporting his action in the matter His Excellency said he had come to the conclusion that the only chance of attaining the end desired without further indefinite protraction of vexatious delay was to offer to the Chinese Government the choice of an exhaustive list of practicable proposals, such as are contained in the letter in question. His Excellency wished to have a settlement arrived at in March last, so as to allow of the occupation of the rock during the south-west monsoon season this year. It is considered impracticable to carry on the work of construction during the north-east monsoon, so that a delay of a few months means a delay in the opening of the light of a whole year. Sir JOHN WALSHAM, on receipt of the despatch, has taken steps to have a settlement arrived at in March last, so as to allow of the occupation of the rock during the south-west monsoon season this year. It is considered impracticable to carry on the work of construction during the north-east monsoon, so that a delay of a few months means a delay in the opening of the light of a whole year. Sir JOHN WALSHAM, on receipt of the despatch, has taken steps to have a settlement arrived at in March last, so as to allow of the occupation of the rock during the south-west monsoon season this year. It is considered impracticable to carry on the work of construction during the north-east monsoon, so that a delay of a few months means a delay in the opening of the light of a whole year. 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in the public interest that I had a petition last night from the Thung-kuan coolies, who, I believe, are very numerous, stating that they had been ill-treated in their work and requesting protection in going to their work to-day. The petition contained instructions that you would be pleased to let me have the last intimation to return to-day. I believe these Thung-kuan men number a very large body, and I should like to know whether they went to their work to-day. Perhaps some one can give me information on the subject. I was told there were some four thousand of them. It seems odd that four thousand should be intimidated. If you will let me have the name of the coolie, I will be happy to assist them. I wished them to tell me where they were going to work. The difficulty was that they were going to work all over the colony. I said I could not give a policeman to whom they wished to go; I would see if police could.

Hon. P. RYER—I don't think it would be safe in a case of this kind to let them go, as I was in a position to do so, and before it was fifty yards from a man to go to yell and pull down placards. Yes, that at the last risk. The thing is to have the police stationed at the various places.

His EXCELLENCY—I quite agree with Mr. Ryer that we ought to take care of these people as policemen and not become soldiers. After all we are soldiers in our purpose, and we will be compelled to do, unless they are to be happy to assist them. I wished them to tell me where they were going to work. The difficulty was that they were going to work all over the colony. I said I could not give a policeman to whom they wished to go; I would see if police could.

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The Council adjourned until Monday, 7th May.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on the 27th inst. after the Legislative Council. The Colonial Secretary presided.

RAILS FOR THE PARADE GROUND.

A vote of \$565 for new posts and rails on the Parade Ground, recommended by the Governor, was approved of.

THE POST OFFICE AND THE HOURS OF CLOSING THE MAIL.

The CHAIRMAN—The post office had the next minute was a recommendation by the Governor to the Council to vote \$720 for the salaries of four additional clerks in the Post Office, at \$90 per month each, from the 1st July to the end of the year. The Postmaster-General in a letter dated 1st April, stated that it was impossible for the present staff to meet the largely increased work that was entailed on the department by the frequent mail now arriving. He asked the Colonial Treasurer to explain the circumstances.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I cannot give an example of what has happened to-day. Every officer was present in his place this morning at seven o'clock, which means getting up before six. Every officer, excepting the Postmaster-General, was at his post, and will be at it probably until seven or half past seven this evening. A considerable number will be at office again at seven o'clock to-morrow morning, although they may not have such a hard day as to-day. It has now come to be a matter of weekly occurrence that we have a day of twelve hours work, and think ourselves lucky if we do not have thirteen.

Hon. P. RYER—What mails are going to-day? Only the French mail to Shanghai.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Only the French mail! You forgot that there was a mail in from Europe this morning and the American mail is coming in at this moment. There is the whole of the correspondence for China and Japan to be sorted. Putting the word any lighter! (Laughter.)

Hon. P. RYER—What do they do about it?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—They have 2,000 men on the immediate pitch on hand who are willing to come in and work for so much an hour. They are more or less trained for the work, they know the ropes, so to speak. If you want a couple of hundred men extra, they are delighted to come and work for four or five hours, and if you want 500 you can get them. You can't get a single extra man.

The CHAIRMAN—You can get the assistance of the public to do it?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I got one man this morning, the other was on parade.

The CHAIRMAN—But they are confined to sorting papers?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Yes.

Hon. P. RYER—There is very general dissatisfaction at the English mail closing at five o'clock, when the steamer does not leave till the next morning.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—One of the bankers of the Colony was only this morning expressing to me his great satisfaction that the mail was kept open no longer than it is. However, I may say this, that I am willing to entertain any reasonable suggestion.

Hon. P. RYER—I should like seven o'clock to be early enough.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I am willing to keep it open till half past eight, further than that I should not be disposed to go. But I should like to ask the members of the mercantile community here whether that will be sufficient.

Hon. J. BELL-INGRAM—I think six o'clock would be very good.

Hon. P. RYER—Six o'clock would just give us time to change.

Hon. J. BELL-INGRAM—Have you got room in the office for extra clerks?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—We must make room, but there is really very little room. So long as they are not expected to live there I can manage with them.

The CHAIRMAN—They will have them in room sometimes?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—These four men whom I speak of—really I shall only get three, because one has been working for two years for nothing—one will be on duty from seven till twelve, another from ten till three, and another from twelve till five, under ordinary circumstances, so they will be spread over the whole day.

Hon. P. RYER—What nationality are they?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I cannot do with Chinese.

Hon. P. RYER—In European clothes, yes, I would take the opportunity of saying that if there is dissatisfaction on postal matters, I wish people would let me know. Postal matters, unfortunately, are settled elsewhere, but in the Post Office—at dinner tables at the Peak, in the hall of the Club, anywhere but in the Post Office. I should just like to say, while I am on this point that only yesterday the Indian Community thought they had a grievance on postal matters. The word is out, the subject is out, and within two hours, everything that could be done to set matters right was done. If people who

have complaints would let me know, everything would be done to remove the cause of complaint, but I cannot afford to take notice of every one.

Hon. P. RYER—You seem to gather it somehow or other. (Laughter.)

The vote was passed, and the Committee then rose.

CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING A PROPOSED LIGHTHOUSE ON GAP ROCK.

The following correspondence was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on the 27th inst.:

Governor's House, Hongkong, 23rd January, 1883.

SIR.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 9th instant, bearing upon the question of the erection of a Lighthouse on Gap Rock, and I desire at the same time to convey to you the thanks of this Government for the trouble you are taking in the matter. I have to &c.

G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX,
Governor.

His Excellency Sir John Walsham, Bart., I.B.M. Minister, &c., &c., Peking.

4. Government House, Hongkong, 16th January, 1883.

SIR.—Referring to previous correspondence on the subject of a proposed Lighthouse for the guidance of vessels approaching the South China Sea, I enclose a letter which I have addressed to you, Sir John Walsham, Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, and with a view to save if possible the delay of another year in the commencement of a work of pressing importance to the Colony and in favour of which there is a very strong and unanimous public opinion, I would earnestly request that you would consider the following alternative proposal contained in the letter, which will be made over to the Government of this Colony, lay before Government to be communicated to His Excellency Sir John Walsham at the Gap Rock as described in the annexed paper.

The Government of Hongkong to erect the Lighthouse and to maintain the light entirely at its own cost and by means of its own employees, being permitted to occupy the Rock, and consider the maintenance of such lights, and of the annual payment of a nominal rent as above, the amount of which the dominion remains at China's disposal. I have to &c.

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